

# Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

October 2025

Tripoli, IA

## Connect with us!

### Church Office phone:

319-882-3585

Office Staffed:

Tuesday & Thursdays 9am to 3 pm

### Cell phone:

319-327-4441

If you cannot reach the office,  
feel free to call the cell phone.

### Website:

<https://faithucctripoli.org/>

### YouTube:

@faithunitedchurchofchrist2821

Pray for the healing and well-being of these beloved children of God...

Carol Kammeyer	Dean Shinstine
Nadine Schnurstein	Keith Stahlhut
Mary Ann Meyer	Cheryl Dahlstrom
Doretta Brandhorst	Gerald Liddle
Shirley Brown	Gary Synder
Marvin & Trivona Drewis	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

JoAnn Steward	Orlyn Milius
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls	Marlys Ryan

We pray for members and friends of the church serving in the military...

Brandon Burrows	Charten Wells
Matthew Coulthard	Colton Henry
Kristian Heidemann	Alyssa Jones

We continue to pray for the families and communities where lives and sense of safety have been shattered.

We mourn with Larry Sturck and family on the passing of his sister, Beverly Johnson.

We mourn with LaVera Buchholz and family on the passing of her nephew, Vince Clinton.

## The Fat Squirrel

A few years ago, while Kevin and I were walking home from church, we were startled when a squirrel suddenly fell out of a tree right in front of us. He landed on his back, and sadly, that was the end for him. What struck us most was how unusually large he was—for a squirrel. As we walked on, still a bit stunned, we joked that perhaps it was a reminder about the sin of gluttony. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized it was also a lesson about greed. That fat squirrel surely was a greedy squirrel. Did he snatch acorns from smaller, weaker squirrels? Did he take more than he needed, leaving others with less? Scripture reminds us: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35, NIV). Greed enslaves the heart and distances us from God, while generosity brings freedom and blessing. Mother Teresa once said, “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” Her words remind me that generosity isn’t only about money. It’s about offering kindness, love, and compassion—in thought, word, and deed. We may not always agree with one another, but we are always called by God to be generous and kind. The fat squirrel is a symbol of greed. It didn’t end well for him. Instead, let’s choose generosity. Don’t be a fat squirrel!

Brenda Sievers



## Reminder:

Daylight savings time ends Sunday,  
November 2th.

Faith United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September, 1 2025

Members in Attendance: Kara Marsh, Conrad Marsh Kathy Westendorf Sharon McLavey, Brenda Shinstine, Dean Shinstine, Jay Renard, Bonnie Travers, Vicki Oleson, and Dave Kirchhoff

Members in Attendance via Zoom:

Also in Attendance: Barb Hill

Absent Members: Tracie Bahrenfuse

Opening Prayer: Bonnie Travers

Meeting called to order by; Dave Kirchhoff

Approval of the August 4th Minutes: Motion to approve by Vicki Oleson. Seconded by Brenda Shinstine

Treasurer Report: Motion to approve by Dean Shinstine. Seconded by Conrad Marsh. Discussion on payment method by parsonage renters. Thank-you from Struck Family Reunion, donation given for using the facility.

Trustee Report: Church Basement update: Holthouse has not contacted Dave Kirchhoff, Mike put Extension on down spouts to run it away from the church. Narthex AC needs to be replaced, possible next spring. Endowment CD interest, returns (5%) from that going into operating budget, should we consider let the interest go back and accrue back in the CD.

Vicki Oleson made a motion that the Memorial Endowment CD interest can be switched to accrue interest go back into the CD, instead of interest going into the operating budget. Barb Hill will discuss with the bank that it will not change the interest rate and if it is possible to change the return. Sharon McLavey seconded the motion if the interest rate doesn't change. Barb Hill will update. Motion passed.

Jay Ranard- updating the council on Church360 software, information handout was given to council, \$1000 for both module for financials and membership. This option would be internet based, more than one user would be able to access the site.\$500 cost to setup/training on both modules. They do offer a 30 day free trial. There is a third module that helps with website development. Discussion on Church Treasurer election, announce at Church Service.

Bonnie Travers made a motion to continue Church360 research, seconded by Sharon McLavey motion passed

Elder Report: Confirmation will be done by Brad Braley, we have a solid 8 confirmands and a possible 9<sup>th</sup>. Brad has a schedule of dates he will host classes, on the other Sundays Kara Marsh at Sunday School will run the supplemental classes along with Kristie Ladage, Sharon McLavey and Tracie Bahrenfuse. Confirmation date will be confirmed at a later time.

Jay Ranard made a motion to pay Brad Braley \$200 for each session plus mileage, seconded by Conrad Marsh. Motion passed.

Vicki Oleson will work on bylaws. Blessing of the backpacks on 8/24,  
On the last Tuesday of Willow Winds 2:15, Tripoli 6:30 monthly services.  
Bonnie Travers has her Sacrament Servers Training completed!!

Liaison Report:

Endowment CD- interest conversation

Memorial money- discussion

### Old Business:

Discussion on St. John's Siegel UCC sharing agreement. Vicki Oleson made a motion to announce a Congregational meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> to update the congregation on St. John's Siegel UCC possible future pastoral sharing options and vote the should the council continue pursuing sharing conversations. Seconded by Mike Westendorf Motion passed. Postcards will be sent out.

Facility Use- Usage policy will be pulled from file for member use

### New Business:

Need to find a back-up/fill-in secretary during Barb Rich's medical leave. Sharon McLavey is willing to learn the position at this time and fill in where needed. Sharon will communicate with Barb on training dates and times.

Motion to adjourn by Kara Marsh. Seconded by Jay Ranard. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Kara Marsh

## **NEWSLETTER**

**If you are receiving this newsletter through postal mail and would be willing to switch to a digital version through email, please contact the church office and leave a message on the phone (319-882-3583) or email the church office (faithuccchurch@gmail.com). Thank you!**



### **Lunch Box Contributions**

The Lunch Box Fund raised \$43.00! Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We will start again this month. Feel free to contribute.

Thanks, Beth Goudschaal

### **Coffee Fellowship Servers**

October 5 Bonnie Travers  
October 12 Dean & Brenda Shinstine  
October 19 Karen Milius  
October 26 Larry & Joan Struck

**Thank you for serving!**



## **Sunday Supply Pastor Schedule**

Oct. 5 Rev. Kathy Young (Communion)  
Oct. 12 Rev. Amy Wiles  
Oct. 19 Rev. Brad Braley  
Oct. 26 Rev. David Feltman

Nov. 2 Rev. Gary Catterson (Communion)  
Nov. 9 Rev. David Feltman  
Nov. 16 Rev. Brad Braley  
Nov. 23  
Nov. 30 Rev. Cathy Young



## SINGERS WANTED

Choir Practice is going to begin! Let's gather on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. **EVERYONE** is welcome – you just need to like to sing! October practices will be October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. We will sing on October 19<sup>th</sup>. **Hope to see you on the 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## Confirmation Instruction Begins in October

Several 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, along with their families, have said yes to taking the next step in their Christian walk—taking the steps to affirm their baptism.

Pastor Brad Braley has agreed to help us navigate this process, along with people in the congregation. Thank you to Kara Marsh, Jen Dillion, Sharon McLavey and Kristi Ladage for agreeing to work with Brad.

A meeting of expectation will be held on Wednesday, October 1 with Brad, students, parents, and teachers. Formal instruction will start Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> during middle school Sunday School time.

We are thankful for the help of Pastor Braley, the church, and the Holy Spirit to guide us as we embark on the journey towards confirmation.

## Outreach Ministry—Willow Winds & TNH

The Outreach Ministry at Willow Winds and Tripoli Nursing Home is led by Bonnie Travers, Roger and Beth Goudschaal. The music and message is spirit filled and appreciated. A big thank you to Roger and Beth for leading us in song at Willow Winds. A big thank you to Phoebe Drape for playing the piano and the choir for assisting us in the singing at Tripoli Nursing Home. Singing the old hymns and having spirit filled discussion is truly a blessing.

Everyone is welcome to come join us in this Outreach Ministry. The services are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month— Willow Winds at 2:15 pm and the Tripoli Nursing Home at 6:30 pm.

This ministry will leave you feeling spirit filled.



## “COUNTRY” MOVIE NIGHT

On Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm the film “Country” will be showing at Grumpy's in Readlyn. Doors are open at 5:30 pm and the movie starts at 6:30 pm. This is a free event open to everyone.

ISU representatives will give a brief recap on farming issues today and how this can affect mental health. There will be individuals present from several mental health service providers along with resources tables from other local agencies.

# A Fun Event is Coming Soon!

**Faith United Church of Christ**

**November 16, 2025**

**“Holiday Event” and Lunch**

*Serving Lunch following the Worship Service*

*Hot Beef Sandwich/Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Plate with Relishes, Dessert, Beverages*



**This Event will be a 'Silent Auction'**

**Baskets - Baked Items - Thanksgiving Items – Wood Crafts -  
Table Items - Handmade Items - Christmas Items - Etc.**

\*\*\* *We invite you to share your Talents, Items and Gifts to this Fun Event.*

**We would like the Auction Items at the Church Fellowship Hall by October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

*Please contact Juanita Mohlis or Marlene Snelling with questions, details or ideas.*

*We ask that you kindly let Juanita or Marlene know the item/items you are planning to donate for this Event so we will have ample table space. Thank you!*

**Items will be on the Silent Auction Tables to bid on beginning  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>.**

*(Baked items will be brought in on Sunday November 16th but will have a space on the Auction Table for Bidding)*

*Auction Bidding to close following the Lunch!*

*Sponsored by the “Women of Faith”*

*“If we walk with God, We will always reach our Destination”*

***Thank You to all of you!***

*Bid – Donate - Support*

*~Faith can move Mountains~ Matthew 17:20*

***Everyone is invited to participate in this FUN EVENT!***

### October Birthdays

October 2	Gary Snyder
October 9	Nathan Milius
October 11	Duane Ryherd
	Cameron Ladage
October 12	Barb Sowers
October 14	Sharon Funk
October 19	Tim Drewis
	Roger Goudschaal
October 21	Branigan Bunce Smith
October 22	Joanne Steward
	Renee Reeves
	Carolyn Stanbrough
October 29	David Lohmann
October 31	Ellen Kalkbrenner

### Faith United Church of Christ Finances

#### General Fund 2025 (Thru September 27, 2025)

	<u>September</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	\$ 7,444.75		
Expenses	\$ 7,099.59	\$10,772.50	\$3,672.91

#### Year-to-date 2025 (Thru September 27, 2025)

Offerings	\$91,014.38
Expenses	\$72,850.73

#### Cemetery Operations Fund 2025

##### August 2025

Portfolio Value	\$56,723.80
Checking Account Balance	151.14
Savings Account Balance	<u>1,005.38</u>
TOTAL	\$57,880.32

### October Anniversaries

October 1	Kevin & Laurie Buhrow
October 4	Max & Carol Ambrose
October 10	Brian & Trevor Bunce
	Brad & Kim Bunce
October 12	Don & Vernetta Bunce
October 14	Rich & Karen Milius
October 17	Robert & Joyce Kammeyer
October 28	Shawn & Sara Marquis

### Worship by the numbers...

#### September 2025

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Viewing</u>	<u>General Offering</u>
Sept. 7	54	14	\$ 1,586.00
Sept. 14	36	18	\$ 1,227.00
Sept. 21	60	13	\$ 3,202.00
Sept. 28	56	11	\$

### Church Council/Terms

President	Dave Kirchhoff
Vice President	Vicki Oleson
Recorder	Traci Bahrenfuse

#### Elders

Vicki Oleson	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Traci Bahrenfuse	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Kara Marsh	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2027
Sharon McLavey	2nd term expires Jan.31, 2027*
Bonnie Travers (Head Elder)	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Kathy Westendorf	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028

#### Trustees

Dave Kirchhoff	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Mike Westendorf (Head Trustee)	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Jay Ranard	1st term expires Jan.31, 2028
Conrad Marsh	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2026
Brenda Shinstine	2nd term expires Jan. 31, 2028
Dean Shinstine	1st term expires Jan. 31, 2026

### Faith UCC Staff

Admin. Assistant	Barb Rich
Financial Secretary	Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer	Barb Hill
Custodian	Samantha Rossum
Director of Music	Beth Goudschaal
Musicians	June Buhr
	Phoebe Drape
	Sara Goudschaal
	Dawn Holm
	Mary Jo Rathe